

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2002-693

April 9, 2003

MACHIAS WATER COMPANY
Proposed Rate Change to Increase
Annual Revenues (28.1%)

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order, we approve Machias Water Company (Machias) proposed rate increase effective on the date of this Order.

II. BACKGROUND

On November 7, 2002, Machias filed a proposed rate change to increase its rates by 28.1% pursuant to the provisions of 35-A M.R.S.A. § 307. On November 8, 2002, the Office of Public Advocate (OPA) filed a petition to intervene in this matter. The Commission received requests for a public hearing from Rebecca A. Irving and Ivan M. Hanscom. Neither request indicated any specific area of concern related to the proposed rate increase nor did they request intervention.

The OPA issued data requests in this case, and a telephone conference was held among Machias, the OPA and the Advisory Staff to discuss the responses to the OPA's data request and other questions regarding Machias's proposed rate increase. Additional informal communication was held among the parties to complete the review of Machias's proposal.

Machias's rate filing indicates that its rate increase is necessary due to increased costs and placing a new well into service. The increased costs primarily consist of increases in labor and related benefits.

III. DECISION

Based upon our review, it is apparent that to continue to provide adequate service to its customers, Machias's proposed rate increase is necessary and therefore, we approve it. The OPA has indicated that it has no objections to the rates as filed.

Accordingly, we

ORDER

1. That Machias Water Company's proposed rate increase is approved effective with the date of this Order; and
2. That Machias's Sheet #1, Fifth Revision, Sheet #2, Fourth Revision and Sheet # 3 Fifth Revision filed on March 31, 2003, are approved effective with the date of this order.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 9th day of April, 2003.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.